

## **2000 SUGAR AND SPECIALTY CROP HIGHLIGHTS**

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### **SUGAR**

Sugar production for 2000 decreased 18 percent from the previous year to 301,000 tons of 96° raw sugar. Declines in both the acreage for harvest and yield accounted for the lower production. Plantations harvested 2.4 million tons of sugarcane with an average yield of 72.5 tons per acre. Sugar prices during 2000 dipped 12 percent to \$309 per ton of 96° raw sugar, resulting in a value (including molasses) of \$95.9 million, a 27 percent decrease from 1999. Closure of two sugar plantations on Maui and Kauai accounted for the declines in acreage and production.

### **COFFEE**

Hawaii farmers harvested a total of 8.7 million pounds of coffee (parchment basis) during the 2000-2001 season, down 13 percent from the previous season. Farm prices across the State averaged \$2.65 per pound (parchment basis) for the 2000-2001 season, up 26 percent from the previous season. Total farm value of the 2000-2001 crop is estimated at \$23.1 million (parchment basis), up 10 percent from the 1999-2000 season. Coffee growers across the State harvested a record high 6,800 acres during the 2000-2001 season, up 6 percent from last season.

Coffee production in Hawaii county totaled 3.8 million pounds (parchment basis) during the 2000-2001 season, up 27 percent from the previous season and the largest harvest of Big Island coffee since the 1970-1971 season's 4.1 million pounds (parchment basis). The 2000-2001 season got off to a late start due to dry weather reducing the initial round of flowering, but a combination of additional acreage and beneficial showers from late spring into summer eventually resulted in a larger than expected crop.

Maui, Honolulu, and Kauai counties combined to produce an estimated 4.9 million pounds (parchment basis) of coffee for the 2000-2001 season, down 30 percent from the previous season's record high, and the lowest total in four seasons. A major factor for the decline in production was the adverse affect that prolonged dry weather has had on some trees.

### **MACADAMIA NUTS**

Hawaii's 2000-2001 macadamia nut crop is estimated at 50.0 million pounds net, wet-in-shell, 6.5 million pounds below the previous season's crop. The decline was due to adverse weather, lower prices, and less harvested acreage. Weather conditions had mixed effects on orchards depending on location. The Kona area continued to experience dry weather, while early November rains caused flooding in a major Ka'u orchard, resulting in crop and tree losses. Those same rains brought some relief to parched South Kona orchards. Lower prices also caused growers to abandon acreage and to replant with coffee or other crops. Overall yields averaged 2,820 pounds per acre (net, wet in-shell), down 170 pounds from the previous season.

Total acreage in crop dropped 1,500 acres from the previous year to 18,400 acres and the lowest total since the 1984-85 crop year. Harvested acreage also declined by 1,200 acres totaling 17,700 acres. More acreage was abandoned this season due to a large orchard on Maui discontinuing macadamia nut operations.

The farm price for net, wet in-shell macadamia nuts averaged 59.0 cents per pound, down 8.0 cents from the 1999-2000 average. The farm value for the 2000-01 crop is estimated at \$29.5 million, down 22 percent from the previous year. Hawaii growers continued to feel the impact from increased world competition.